

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

Start: 5.00pm

Finish: 5.25pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Westley (Chairman)

Mrs Atherley Kay
Bell Wright

In attendance: Mr S Ibbs (Independent Person)
Mr S Garvey (Reserve Independent Person)

Officers: Managing Director (People and Places) (Mrs G Rowe)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Legal and Member Services Manager (Mr M Jones)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 4 February 2014 be received as a correct record signed by the Chairman.

6. OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee considered the joint report of the Borough Treasurer and Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 7 to 32 of the Book of Reports which sought endorsement of the proposed revisions to the Officer Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix 1. The report had previously been considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2014.

RESOLVED: That the revisions attached at Appendix 1 be endorsed and the document circulated to all staff.

7. PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Committee considered the report of the Borough Solicitor, as contained on pages 33 to 45 of the Book of Reports that provided an update to the Planning Code of Good Practice in light of recent changes to the law and Government guidance, together with a revised recommendation which set out additional wording, as contained on page 71 of the Book of Reports, to be added to paragraph 3 of the Code. The report had previously been considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 14 September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the updated Planning Code of Good Practice attached at Appendix 1, be adopted with effect from 16 October 2014, subject to, for clarification, the insertion of an additional bullet point at paragraph 3 of the Code as circulated.

8. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor that provided details of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2013/14.

RESOLVED: That the Standards Committee Annual Report 2013/14 attached at Appendix 1, be noted, endorsed and published on the Council's website.

9. REVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director (People and Places) and Borough Solicitor as set down at pages 55 to 60 of the Book of Reports. The Committee reviewed the arrangements in place relating to the role of the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person.

RESOLVED:

- A. That the Independent Person Protocol, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.
- B. That the Independent Person (IP) and Reserve Independent Person (RIP) indicate their acceptance of the Protocol by signing a copy before the Monitoring Officer.

10. COMPLAINTS STATISTICS

The Committee considered the circulated complaints statistics for 2013/14 and 2014/15 as set down at pages 61 to 68 of the Book of Reports.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the IP and RIP for the work that had been undertaken to date in relation to the complaints.

RESOLVED: That the statistics, be noted.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

RSOLVED: That the Work Programme, be noted.

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Chairman